

Emergency Support Function (ESF) # 18

Fatality Management



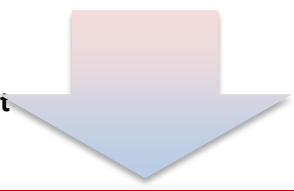
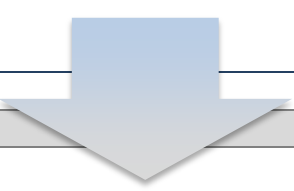
Preface

Disasters have the capacity to produce large numbers of fatalities. The profound effects of mass fatalities on both loved ones and the entire community, and the ability to coordinate and obtain the needed fatality management resources are critical emergency response functions of the City-County.

Primary Agency

Milwaukee County Medical Examiner

Milwaukee County, Wisconsin
Emergency Support Functions (ESF) # 18 – Fatality Management

Milwaukee County	
<u>AGENCIES:</u> Primary Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Support 211 System American Red Cross Clergy Community / Faith Based Organizations Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (D-MORT), and Dane Fatality Incident Response Support Team (D-FIRST) Fire Departments Funeral Directors/Association Hartson Funeral Home and Private Ambulance Companies Hospitals Law Enforcement Agencies Medical College of Wisconsin Medical Reserve Corps Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff – Division of Emergency Management Public Health (Municipal) Public Works (Municipal)	
State of Wisconsin	
Primary State support to this ESF may be available in coordination with the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC).	
Federal	
Likely Support Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergency services for household pets and services animals.• Veterinary medical support.• Support providing for the safety and well-being of household pets.	

Emergency Support Function (ESF) # 18

Fatality Management

PURPOSE.

1. This function addresses general policies and procedures for the mitigation, preparedness, response to and recovery from incidents with fatalities. It also provides an initial coordination framework of mass fatality response activities.

POLICIES.

1. It is the policy of Milwaukee County that human remains should only be removed if authorized by the medical examiner or his/her designee.
2. All human remains will be treated with the utmost respect and dignity during the collection and removal process.
3. Personnel involved in the collection, removal and transportation of human remains must use the appropriate levels of protective equipment to prevent any injury or exposure to pathogens.
 - It is understood that the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner is primarily responsible for body recovery, identification, and examination during mass fatality operations .
5. It is understood that the Medical Examiner is responsible for human remains and associated items during fatalities. Once the Chief of Fire/Rescue on scene has declared the incident site safe to enter, all injured have been evacuated and emergency operations are complete, the Medical Examiner is in charge of the human remains until all body identification and morgue operations have been completed to their satisfaction. Criminal, transportation-related, and industrial investigations and associated non-remains scene features will remain the jurisdiction of other investigating agencies.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES/TASKS BY PHASE

MILWAUKEE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

Pre-Emergency

Work with the Division of Emergency Management to:

1. Maintain this Emergency Support Function (ESF).
2. Maintain inventories of resources and equipment.
3. Participate in drills, exercises.
4. Develop emergency action checklists.
5. Maintain mutual aid agreements.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES/TASKS BY PHASE**MILWAUKEE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER****Emergency**

1. Determine if there have been fatalities and the numbers involved.
2. Supervise and coordinate the recovery, transportation, and storage of human remains.
3. Make sure that locations are noted where each body was found and that all information is appropriately tagged or attached (i.e. date, time, approximate age, location and identification if known).
4. Protect the property and personal effects of the deceased.
5. Notify relatives in cases where local law enforcement agencies are unwilling or unable to so.
6. Request scene security and evidence identification.
7. Request security for temporary morgues.
8. When notified, report to the Milwaukee County EOC.
9. Implement and coordinate the Milwaukee County Mass Fatality Incident Plan.
10. Establish effective fatality management incident management structure within the on-scene Operations Section.
11. Procure equipment and supplies necessary for:
 - a. Tag and flag operations.
 - b. Establishment of a temporary morgue, if needed. .
 - c. Body transportation.
 - d. Temporary cold storage (portable units -e.g., refrigeration trucks, or portable refrigeration containers).
12. Identify, set up, and coordinate activities at the Incident Morgue to include:
 - a. Victim tracking.
 - b. Fingerprinting.
 - c. Physical examinations.
 - d. Radiographic examination
 - e. Withdrawal of blood and body fluids.
 - f. Forensic examinations.
 - g. Victim identification.
 - h. Preparation for final disposition and release of remains.
13. Advise on the use of Personal Protective Equipment as appropriate.
14. Assure epidemiological monitoring and surveillance is occurring.
15. Coordinate activities with those of agencies performing decontamination of potentially contaminated (HAZMAT, Chemical, Biological, or Radiologic) remains at the incident scene prior to transportation to the Medical Examiner's Office or temporary mortuary facility.
16. Establish and maintain a comprehensive recordkeeping system for continuous updating and recording fatality numbers.
17. Establish Public Information capabilities within the on-scene structure or within the Joint Public Information System at the EOC to ensure accurate and expedient dissemination of information.

Emergency

1. Staff the ESF # 18 position in the EOC.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES/TASKS BY PHASE	
MILWAUKEE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER	
Operations Center (EOC)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Implement and coordinate the Milwaukee County Mass Fatality Incident Plan. Determine whether the situation falls under the jurisdiction of Coroner, notifying Coroner of the situation and coordinating with them as appropriate. Coordinate and facilitate the fatality management if the event is not under the jurisdiction of Coroner. Determine present and future need for medical examiner/fatality management resources. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Determine if the situation may require temporary morgue facilities. Identify potential sites and/or storage facilities for the dead, (i.e., refrigeration units, trucks, trailers, etc.) as well as processing sites. Obtain, coordinate fatality management resources as requested by field incident commanders. Establish and maintain a comprehensive record keeping system for continuous updating and recording of fatality numbers. Establish, maintain contact with the State EOC through the EOC Manager: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on status and need for fatality management resources. Coordinate with funeral home directors to provide assistance in the mass fatalities incidents by providing recovery, evacuation, mortuary operations, identification and notification.
Recovery Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Compilation of final reports. Participate in after-action/improvement planning incident evaluation process. Provide continued support to fatality management personnel. Revise plans to reflect changes in programs and procedures.

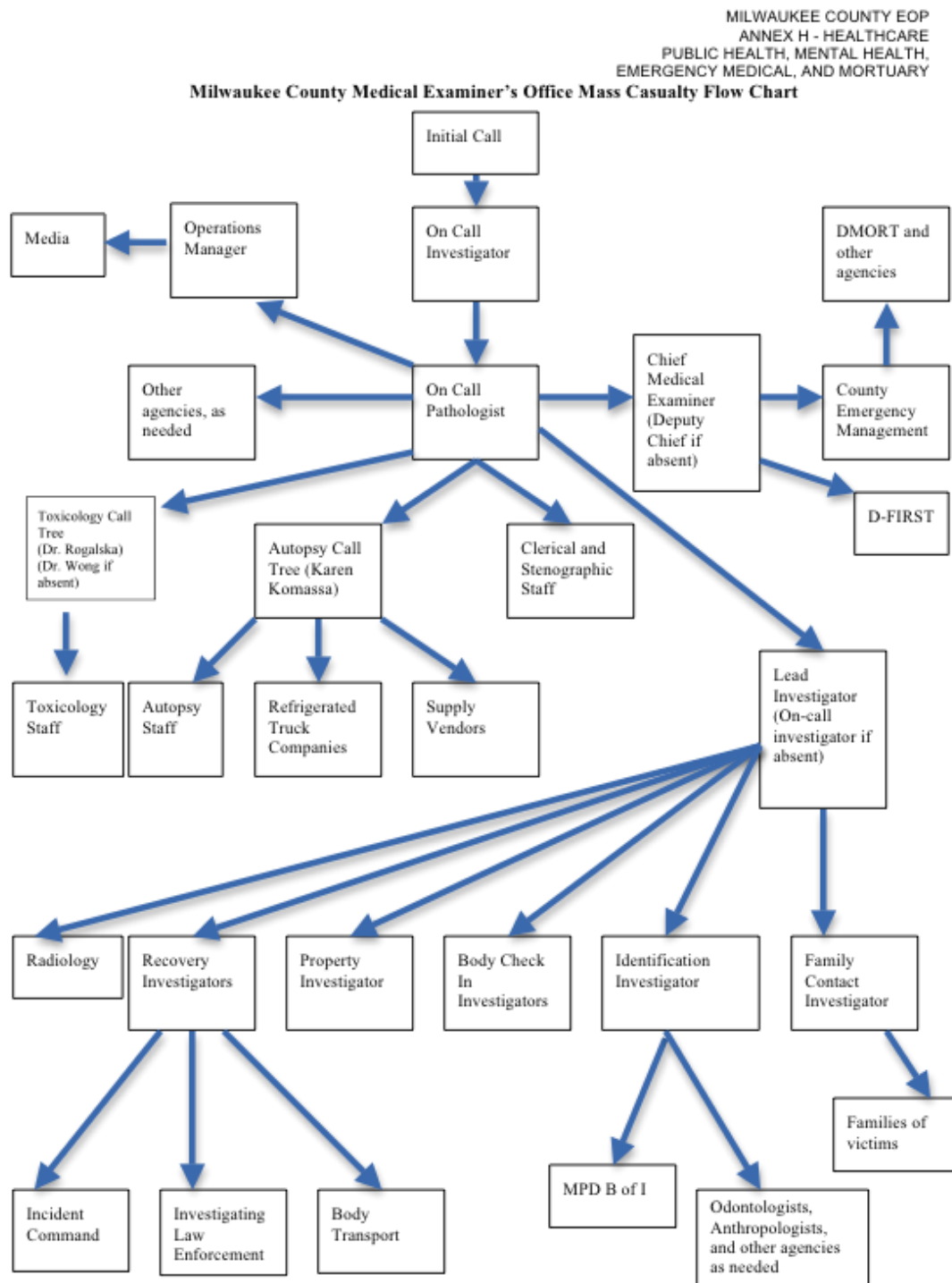
SUPPORT DEPARTMENTS RESPONSIBILITIES/TASKS	
211 System	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Assist with providing pre-scripted information to decedents' families
American Red Cross	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a representative to the EOC to coordinate ARC operation. Assist with the identification and establishment of support facilities for responder care and feeding. Establish facilities and facilitate the exchange of information for victim and family support services. Provide additional services such as family escorts, public inquiry and locator program, childcare services, and assistance with planning of memorial services. In application to aircraft incidents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Family Assistance Centers for family members.

SUPPORT DEPARTMENTS RESPONSIBILITIES/TASKS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Registration and identification of family members; c. Mental health support; d. Physical health support; e. Childcare as needed; f. Spiritual care support; g. Assist Coroner with notification of next of kin or representative.
Clergy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate services for disaster victims and families.
Community / Faith Based Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advise on issues of cultural/religious sensitivity 2. Provide grief counseling. 3. Recruit and coordinate clergy. 4. Provide assistance with mental health support for emergency workers and families as appropriate. 5. Assist in providing language services for family assistance centers as requested.
D-MORT/D-FIRST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support local authorities and provide technical assistance and personnel to recover, identify, and process deceased victims 2. Provide forensic pathologists and mortuary personnel for assistance. 3. Provide temporary portable mortuary facilities
Fire Departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist with emergency services at disaster scene, fatality collection points, and incident morgue. 2. Provide hazardous materials consultation. 3. Support search and recovery efforts. 4. Conduct gross decontamination. 5. Provide assistance to the medical examiner for the removal/recovery of remains. 6. Record costs and expenditures and forward them to this ESF's Group Supervisor.
Funeral Directors/ Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish temporary morgues. 2. Assist in recovery, transportation, mortuary operations, identification and notification. 3. Coordinate embalming, transportation and final disposition of bodies.
Hartson Funeral Home and Private Ambulance Companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist with transportation of human remains as requested.
Hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report to the Medical Examiner's Office disaster related victims who become

SUPPORT DEPARTMENTS RESPONSIBILITIES/TASKS	
	<p>deceased at their respective healthcare facility.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Provide reports to the Coroner emergency related deaths at hospital facility.
Law Enforcement Agencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure the disaster scene until such time that resources can be organized to properly mark and plot debris, bodies and body parts at the disaster scene. 2. Provide security at designated mortuaries. 3. Provide escort of body transport to and from the fatality scene if traffic related issues are encountered. 4. Provide TOTAL station, if required. 5. Provide explosive-related clearance of bodies if not previously cleared on scene.
Medical College of Wisconsin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide body trackers for mortuary operations.
Medical Reserve Corps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide body trackers for mortuary operations.
Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff – Division of Emergency Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate resources for the Medical Examiner. 2. Implement mutual aid agreements.
Public Health (Municipal)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assure epidemiological monitoring and disease control surveillance are occurring as well as other ESF # 8 requested activities. 2. Maintain records of cost and expenditures to accomplish this ESF and forward them to the EOC Finance/ Administration Section Chief.
Public Works (Municipal)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide equipment, personnel, and other resources for heavy and specialized equipment. 2. Identify contractors who can provide heavy and specialized equipment to support fatality management activities.
ATTACHMENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MCMEO Mass Casualty Flow Chart.
REFERENCES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Medical Examiner's Mass Fatality Plan.

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Attachment 1
MCMEO MASS CASUALTY FLOW CHART



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